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4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
5 DISTRICT OF NEVADA
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7 ERVIN MIDDLETON,
8 Plaintiff,

9 vs.

10 OMELY TELECOM CORP.,
11 Defendant.
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Case No. 2:16-cv-01369-APG-GWF

ORDER

Application to Proceed *in Forma Pauperis* (ECF No. 1) and Screening of Complaint (ECF No. 1-2)

14 This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff's Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis
15 (ECF No. 1), filed on June 16, 2016.

16 **BACKGROUND**

17 Plaintiff brings this action under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47
18 U.S.C. §§ 227(a)(iii) and 227(b)(1). Plaintiff alleges that Defendant violated the TCPA by calling
19 Plaintiff's home phone thirty-two (32) times and leaving thirty-two (32) recorded messages using
20 an automatic telephone dialing system without his permission. Plaintiff represents that after
21 receiving four (4) of the aforementioned calls, Plaintiff requested that Defendant stop calling his
22 number and additionally to mail a copy of Defendant's "Do Not Call" policy to him. Plaintiff
23 represents that by failing to comply with both requests, Defendant demonstrated willful or knowing
24 non-compliance with 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(B). As a result, Plaintiff now seeks injunctive relief
25 and damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3).

26 **DISCUSSION**

27 **I. Application to Proceed In Forma Pauperis**

28 Plaintiff filed this instant action and attached a financial affidavit to his application and

1 complaint as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). Reviewing Plaintiff's financial affidavit pursuant to
2 28 U.S.C. § 1915, the Court finds that he is unable to pre-pay the filing fee. As a result, Plaintiff's
3 request to proceed *in forma pauperis* in federal court is granted.

4 **II. Screening the Complaint**

5 Upon granting a request to proceed *in forma pauperis*, a court must additionally screen a
6 complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e). Specifically, federal courts are given the authority to
7 dismiss a case if the action is legally "frivolous or malicious," fails to state a claim upon which
8 relief may be granted, or seeks monetary relief from a defendant/third party plaintiff who is
9 immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). A complaint, or portion thereof, should be
10 dismissed for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted "if it appears beyond a
11 doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claims that would entitle him to
12 relief." *Buckey v. Los Angeles*, 968 F.2d 791, 794 (9th Cir. 1992). A complaint may be dismissed
13 as frivolous if it is premised on a nonexistent legal interest or delusional factual scenario. *Neitzke*
14 *v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 327–28 (1989). Moreover, "a finding of factual frivolousness is
15 appropriate when the facts alleged rise to the level of the irrational or the wholly incredible,
16 whether or not there are judicially noticeable facts available to contradict them." *Denton v.*
17 *Hernandez*, 504 U.S. 25, 33 (1992). When a court dismisses a complaint under § 1915(e), the
18 plaintiff should be given leave to amend the complaint with directions as to curing its deficiencies,
19 unless it is clear from the face of the complaint that the deficiencies could not be cured by
20 amendment. *See Cato v. United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995).

21 **III. Instant Complaint**

22 **A. Telephone Consumer Protection Act**

23 Plaintiff alleges that Defendant has violated the Telephone Consumer Protection Act
24 ("TCPA"). The TCPA prohibits any person, absent the prior express consent from the telephone
25 call recipient, from making "any call... using any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial
26 or prerecorded voice... to any telephone number assigned to... any service for which the called party
27 is charged for the call." 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii). A person or entity may bring an action
28 based on a violation of the TCPA, codified in 47 U.S.C. § 227, to enjoin such action and/or to

1 recover monetary loss or \$500 in damages for each such violation. 27 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3). Further,
2 if the court finds that the defendant willfully or knowingly violated the Act, the court may, in its
3 discretion, triple the amount of the award. *Id.* Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Omely Telecom
4 willfully or knowingly failed to comply with the TCPA when it proceeded to call and leave
5 recorded messages using an automatic telephone dialing system or artificial or prerecorded voices
6 on Plaintiff's home phone without Plaintiff's consent, disregarding Plaintiff's express request that
7 he not receive such calls. Therefore, Plaintiff has sufficiently pled a claim under the TCPA.

8 Accordingly,

9 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *in Forma Pauperis* is
10 **granted**. Plaintiff shall not be required to pre-pay the full filing fee of four hundred dollars
11 (\$400.00).

12 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff is permitted to maintain this action to
13 conclusion without the necessity of prepayment of any additional fees or costs or the giving of
14 security therefor. This Order granting leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* shall not extend to the
15 issuance of subpoenas at government expense.


16 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Clerk of the Court shall file the Complaint (ECF
17 No. 1-2).

18 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Clerk of the Court shall issue summons to the
19 Defendant named in the complaint and deliver the summons to the U.S. Marshal for service. The
20 Clerk of the Court shall send the required USM-285 forms to Plaintiff. Plaintiff shall have twenty
21 (20) days to furnish the required USM-285 forms to the U.S. Marshal at 333 Las Vegas Blvd.
22 South, Suite 2058, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101. After Plaintiff receives copies of the completed
23 USM-285 forms from the U.S. Marshal, he has twenty (20) days to file a notice with the court
24 identifying if Defendant was served. If Plaintiff wishes to have the U.S. Marshal attempt service
25 again on any unserved defendant, then a motion must be filed with the court identifying the
26 unserved defendant, specifying a more detailed name and address and indicating whether some
27 other manner of service should be used. Pursuant to Rule 4(m) of the Federal Rules of Civil
28 Procedure, service must be accomplished within ninety (90) days from the date that the complaint

1 was filed.

2 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that henceforth, Plaintiff shall serve upon Defendant, or
3 Defendant's attorney if it has retained one, a copy of every pleading, motion, or other document
4 submitted for consideration by the court. Plaintiff shall include with the original paper submitted
5 for filing a certificate stating the date that a true and correct copy of the document was mailed to
6 Defendant or Defendant's counsel. The Court may disregard any paper received by a district judge,
7 magistrate judge, or the Clerk which fails to include a certificate of service.

8 DATED this 14th day of June, 2017.

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11 GEORGE FOLEY, JR.
12 United States Magistrate Judge
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